

Ques say truly that it is a high hapiness to think that we are
all of us in
the same
kind of way
and that we
are not all
to be all
the same.

Island Aug 15th 1864

If you could be
nated comfortably where I am
you would see the prospect
was very pretty I think. Our tent
is open towards the east and
directly in that direction lies
the "broad Atlantic" alive just now
with shipping of various kind.
The largest perhaps now in sight
is a transport which has just
left this Island with about a
thousand soldiers bound for
Poor fellows! I fear they will not
all see their green Island again.
A little on our right and about
a mile ^{away} lies Fort Warren, and it
is really a very pretty place
as we see it. I would like to
look about over it. Then too
we can see quite a number of
other Islands and the Main ^{both}
right and left. So much for the back ground

Near you can see an abundance of blue coats covering bodies in all positions, some standing some sitting and a great many walking just now I can see two ladies and a child on the beach with some soldier friend who is with them. I have seen a few ladies every day thus far, though they do not let many come on. The most that we have are unmarried as yet, like us. We have but very little drilling thus far, and a laziness to appearance, you seldom meet, we are forced to be so, for we can find but little to do save only to sit, or lay, and talk, and write. Just now the guard is just being relieved, and quite a squad of men with glistening muskets have returned from a two hour tramp between certain stakes which surround this Island.

Then there are others carrying stones
from the beach to be used about
a very deep well they are digging,
also "a wheel-barrow big game" as the
boys call it "bringing up gravel
for walk" &c. in loads smaller
sometimes than our little boys
wheel. The rule seems to be here,
as on all Government work, to
do just as little as one can get
along with. On our immediate
left and in our rear are some
twenty or thirty tents, nearly half
of which are occupied by our boat
presents, though we expect to
have them taken P. M. for the bar-
nacks vacated by those who left
this morning. We shall then be
safe from bad weather, and
we shall then have a place to do
the cooking in and have our
meals regularly, which has not
been the case thus far.

There are twenty or more of
these barracks, each large enough
for a large Co. I should think.
with a cook house in the rear of
each. I will tell you about
this internal arrangement
at another time.

Then near the wharf is
the Head quarter of the com-
manding officers. They are
a very slush well fed looking
set of men. I wish I could
think them all gentle, but it's
matter but little to me in-
dividually, for we hope to have
him before very long, but how soon
none of us can tell. You would
like to listen to the music that
we have morning and evening.

The Battalion look like
an old fashioned Massé, and
is quite a pretty sight. Love to all.
I hope the boys and Annie will
be good; I am thinking about them all.

Very truly yours, L. A. Keith

Please write often, Direct - at St. Louis.